

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Austria

SUBJECT Secret Meeting of German Emigres in
Linz, Austria

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CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.
Next Review Date: 2008

1. Some time in the latter part of June 1949, a Mr. Storch, President of the Anglo-Sudeten-Deutsche Club in London, arrived in Linz, Austria, to attend a meeting of ethnic Germans who had been expelled from Slovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Rumania, and the Carpatho-Ukraine. Storch, a Sudeten German Socialist, emigrated to the United Kingdom in 1938 immediately after the German annexation of the Sudetenland. He is a member of a small group of Sudeten German Socialists who were bitterly opposed to the Nazi regime in Germany and who now reside in England. The group is lead by one Wenzel Jaksch.
2. Storch, who is now a British subject, addressed the meeting in Linz on the subject of a democratic federation of the Danube countries. He claimed that Winston Churchill's support had been enlisted and that Monsignor Montini, a Papal Secretary of State, was also endorsing the proposed Federation. Storch spoke on the inevitability of war with the Soviet Union and emphasized the importance of founding a Danube Federation under Hapsburg or republican leadership. Storch urged the assembled group to consolidate its efforts and prepare for the day when a democratic federation of the Danube countries would be formed.
3. At this meeting an executive committee was elected, and one Kurt Knoll was appointed propaganda chief. Knoll, a long-time Nazi, was at one time Rector of the Academy of World Trade in Vienna, President of the German South East Union, SS Standartenfuehrer, and deputy chief of the SD for the Balkan countries. Knoll is now residing in Vorarlberg, Austria. He allegedly speaks English very well, and, according to source, was instructed by the executive committee to seek the assistance of John MacCormac, New York Times correspondent in Austria, in bringing the concept of a Danube Federation to the attention of the American people. According to source, the representatives of the German emigre groups who attended the Linz meeting, have the support of large groups of German emigres in Austria, Germany, and the Balkan countries.

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

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